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Summary report on the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention was held during the fortieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on 5, 8 and 11 June 2014. Representatives of Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media shared experiences and exchanged ideas, good practices and lessons learned on public participation, public awareness, public access to information and international cooperation on such matters.

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I. Introduction

A. Background and mandate

1. Reaffirming the importance of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information in relation to climate change and international cooperation on such matters for achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and for the effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eighteenth session, adopted the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention.[1]

2. By the same decision, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to enhance the work on Article 6 of the Convention by organizing an annual in-session dialogue with the participation of Parties, representatives of relevant bodies established under the Convention and relevant experts, practitioners and stakeholders to share their experiences and exchange ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the Doha work programme.[2]

3. The COP decided that, for the purpose of organizing the Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention, the six elements of Article 6 of the Convention would be clustered into two focal areas, with the consideration of each area alternating on an annual basis. The first focal area consists of education and training and the second consists of public awareness, public participation and public access to information. International cooperation is considered to be a cross-cutting theme of both focal areas.[3]

4. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on every meeting of the Dialogue.[4]

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report, with a view to determining appropriate actions arising from it.

II. Proceedings

6. The 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention took place on 5, 8 and 11 June 2014 during SBI 40. The focus was on the second of the areas referred to in paragraph 3 above: public awareness, public participation and public access to information.

7. More than 120 representatives of Parties, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and the media shared their experiences and exchanged ideas, best practices and lessons learned on public participation, public awareness, public access to information and international cooperation on such matters.

8. Mr. Amena Yauvoli, Chair of the SBI, chaired the 2nd Dialogue. He was supported by the co-facilitators, Ms. Renilde Ndayishimiye (Burundi) and Mr. Paul Watkinson (France).

[1] Decision 15/CP.18, preamble and paragraph 1.
[2] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 9.
[3] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 10.
[4] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 12.

9. The meeting was organized into three two-hour working sessions, focusing on:

(a) Public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action;

(b) Raising public awareness of climate change and mobilizing climate action;

(c) Public access to information on climate change.

10. Each working session started with focused presentations made by Parties, IGOs and NGOs, followed by an expert panel discussion and an in-depth dialogue with all meeting participants.

11. The agenda for the meeting is contained in the annex. All presentations and a full webcast recording of all of the working sessions are available on the UNFCCC website.[4]

III. Summary of presentations and discussions

A. Opening of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

12. The meeting was opened by the UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Richard Kinley, who introduced Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Minister of State for Environment of Peru and incoming President of COP 20 and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), emphasizing the Minister's commitment to environmental education, advocacy and public participation throughout his career.

13. Mr. Pulgar-Vidal highlighted ethics, solidarity and public participation as essential principles for addressing climate change and environmental degradation. He stated that raising awareness of climate change and creating and implementing strong climate policies is possible only with the effective participation of the public. He stressed the crucial importance of considering cultural difference in order to effectively communicate on climate change. Mr. Pulgar-Vidal announced his intention to use COP 20/CMP 10 to build confidence among stakeholders and to change the narrative on climate change and the UNFCCC process in a positive way, noting that working in a transparent and inclusive manner with all stakeholders is the only way to reach a new climate agreement in 2015.

14. Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, former Chair of the SBI, stated that the adoption of the Doha work programme and the establishment of the Dialogue constitute the first occasion on which the joint will of Parties and observer organizations has been converted into a COP decision. He stressed that the Dialogue provides an ideal platform for interaction between Parties and observers and that Article 6 is of fundamental importance for fostering behavioural change and the shift towards a sustainable, low-emission and resource-efficient development paradigm.

15. Mr. Yauvoli noted that transparent and inclusive public participation is fundamental to advancing the climate change process. He emphasized that the Dialogue aims to provide a regular forum for Parties and stakeholders to share their experiences and exchange ideas, good practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of Article 6. Mr. Yauvoli outlined the organization of the work at the 2nd Dialogue and invited all participants to actively engage in the discussions.

16. Mr. Watkinson emphasized that matters related to Article 6 are key to addressing climate change and need to be brought more prominently into the political discussions. Ms.

[4] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/8210.php>.

Ndayishimiye opened the first working session, on public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action.

B. Session I: public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action

1. Presentations

17. Ms. Priscilla Achakpa, a representative of the Women Environmental Programme, a grass-roots NGO, presented remotely from Nigeria on how locally conducted stakeholder consultations, in particular with groups of society that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, were organized and how they led to specific recommendations that were presented to the national Government as well as at the international level. As women are among the groups that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in Nigeria, emphasis was placed on ensuring women's participation. The remote presentation was complemented by an intervention made by Ms. Gotelind Alber of GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, who highlighted participatory vulnerability assessments and community-based adaptation and mitigation actions as good practices that should be followed in all areas of climate policymaking, in particular with regard to the definition of intended nationally determined contributions. She emphasized that effective and meaningful public participation requires addressing the other elements of Article 6, namely education, training, public awareness and public access to information, and including disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Gender considerations are a cross-cutting issue for all elements of Article 6 and need to be addressed by creating strong women's networks at all levels of decision-making, fostering gender expertise at all stages of policymaking and establishing a funding mechanism for Article 6 activities. Both presenters highlighted the importance of building on traditional knowledge and engaging all stakeholder groups in order to ensure informed policymaking and broad policy acceptance and support.

18. Ms. Tara Shine, a representative of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice presented the Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice Conference[6] as a case study on the effective engagement of grass-roots practitioners at the international level. The conference was designed to have local-level practitioners from around the world at the centre of the discussions so as to allow policymakers to learn from local experiences, practices and coping mechanisms. It was emphasized that, as some of the most effective climate solutions are already being provided by the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, creating platforms for sharing those solutions is crucial to advancing the climate change process at the local, national and international levels. More focus should be placed on the participation of women as they have been identified as being at the heart of creating effective climate change responses. Ms. Shine noted that the capacity-building workshop for grass-roots practitioners held prior to the conference and the use of plain language throughout the conference were key to the success of the event.

19. Mr. Dennis Mairena, a representative of the Center for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples demonstrated how a subnational climate change strategy for indigenous territories in northern Nicaragua was developed through a participatory process. After the establishment of a technical committee constituted of indigenous peoples organizations, the country's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and international development cooperation organizations, a series of courses on governance and climate change was developed and held to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples for effective participation. This was followed by a two-year interview and consultation process with indigenous communities and other stakeholders, leading to

[6] See <https://www.irishaid.ie/what-we-do/dublin-conference/>.

the development of a subnational strategy, which has been officially approved and now constitutes a chapter of Nicaragua's National Climate Change Strategy.

20. The last presentation was made by a representative of the secretariat on behalf of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness,[7] who outlined draft guidelines for national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention, which the Alliance is developing in response to an invitation made by the COP.[8] The guidelines aim to serve as a flexible framework for country-driven action, addressing the specific needs and circumstances of Parties while fostering an interdisciplinary, multisectoral, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach. The guidelines include various approaches to, and good practices in, the organization of stakeholder consultations and the mobilization of stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans.

2. Expert panel

21. The panel was comprised of experts in public participation from the Government of France, the Government of Peru, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the University of Lapland. In line with the focus questions published on the UNFCCC website prior to the 2nd Dialogue, the panellists focused their interventions on: the main challenges of developing public participation mechanisms and how those challenges can be overcome; ways of ensuring that all stakeholder groups are involved in climate change policymaking and action; best approaches for governments to take to mobilize public support for climate action; and best strategies for the public to encourage governments to take ambitious climate action.

22. Mr. Ernesto Ráez Luna, the ministerial advisor and leader of the COP 20/CMP 10 stakeholder engagement team, reflected on approaches for governments to take to mobilize public support for climate action, emphasizing the need to recognize civil society as a positive force. Peru's efforts to foster public participation in COP 20/CMP 10 include the establishment of a dedicated stakeholder engagement team with an advisory function to the Peruvian COP Presidency, targeted public information campaigns on climate change with possibilities for participation, the allocation of financial resources for addressing gender considerations and partnering with civil-society organizations.

23. Mr. Pierre-Henri Guignard, Secretary-General COP 21/CMP 11, stated that the French Government's work on fostering public participation in climate change policymaking is guided by principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[9] the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)[10] and Article 6 of the Convention. He stressed the importance of working collectively with all stakeholders at the local, national and international levels to mobilize a global commitment to reaching a new universal and ambitious climate agreement at COP 21/CMP 11. He stated that France is actively working with young people on the preparations for COP 21/CMP 11 and reaffirmed his commitment

[7] The Alliance aims to: maximize synergies and coherence of activities; utilize available expertise and resources efficiently through enhanced coordination; support Parties to the Convention in their efforts to design, initiate and undertake activities related to Article 6 of the Convention; and establish a clear link between the work of the member organizations and the UNFCCC process. The Alliance is constituted of 13 United Nations entities. Further information on the Alliance and its members is available at <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7403.php>.

[8] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 24.

[9] See <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>.

[10] See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/aarhus-convention.html>.

to collaborating with all stakeholder groups in designing a conference venue that "brings down the blue fence" and creates a conference "for the people".

24. Mr. Sébastien Duyck, a representative of the University of Lapland, stated that the work under Article 6 provides a good example of effective collaboration between Parties and observer organizations. He stressed the need to start looking beyond good practices by focusing on how the implementation of Article 6 can leverage action at all levels. He urged Parties to make use of the existing provisions to develop guidelines on local consultations for projects under the clean development mechanism, as many of them have a strong impact on local communities. Guidelines should also be developed on meaningful stakeholder participation in decision-making processes regarding projects to be financed by the Green Climate Fund. He identified the limited engagement of stakeholders in the drafting of national communications as a missed opportunity at the national level. With regard to the international level, he stressed the importance of ensuring that intended nationally determined contributions reflect the principles of Article 6 and that negotiations under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action include provisions on public participation. As a concrete proposal, he recommended that the SBI consider the development of a normative framework and a mechanism that ensures the participation of the most marginalized groups in policymaking at all levels.

25. Mr. Achim Halpaap, a representative of UNITAR, emphasized that the focus of Article 6 has shifted significantly over the last two decades, with climate change now being at the heart of the international development agenda and increasingly affecting people's rights and development opportunities. Public participation in climate change governance is complex in nature as it includes multiple actors and decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels. He stressed that the development of capacities and skills for effective public participation needs to be addressed in the new climate change regime and should be considered by the Global Environment Facility. As a way forward, UNITAR recommended that the SBI launch an international research framework together with interested Parties and organizations to develop a more structured approach to public participation.

3. Discussions

26. A representative of the United States underlined the importance of public participation for informed policymaking and strong policy acceptance and support for its implementation. She highlighted a climate literacy framework as an example of communicating on climate science in a simple and understandable manner and supporting its integration into school curricula.

27. In response to a question from a representative of France on how governments should work with civil society in partnership and create synergies, the representative of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice said that the partnership of her organization with the Government of Ireland, IGOs and NGOs in the organization of the international conference referred to in paragraph 18 above should be taken as a good example.

28. A representative of Brazil supported the notion expressed by the expert from the University of Lapland on the importance of ensuring public participation in the development of nationally determined contributions. Brazil has set up an online platform for that purpose and offered support to other Parties that are interested in following its example.

29. A representative of the Dominican Republic stated that its National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resources and Skills to Advance Green, Low Emissions and Climate Resilient Development was developed through multisectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations involving various public- and private-sector entities and civil-society groups.

30. A representative of Bangladesh emphasized that focus also needs to be placed on public participation mechanisms in developed countries, where in some cases it has become apparent that public opinion has not been reflected in climate change policymaking.

31. Representatives of Ghana and Mexico stressed the importance of public participation for developing effective climate policies and highlighted gender equality as a fundamental principle in that context. The representative of GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice added that women's participation needs to be supported in all countries at all levels.

32. A representative of Uganda thanked UNITAR for the support provided in fostering public participation in climate change education policymaking as part of a joint project under the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership UN CC:Learn[11] and stated that the inner drivers of communities need to be considered in order to make public participation mechanisms effective.

33. A representative of Mexico stressed the importance of mobilizing global efforts to promote climate change education and important interlinkages with other international processes, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development,[12] which will take place in Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014.

34. Other points highlighted during the discussion include the importance of establishing platforms for dialogue between all stakeholders and decision makers, strengthening the capacities of governments and civil society for meaningful public participation, and targeted efforts to foster the participation of the most vulnerable groups, including women and indigenous peoples.

C. Session II: raising public awareness of climate change and mobilizing climate action

1. Presentations

35. Mr. Watkinson opened the second working session, on raising public awareness on climate change and mobilizing climate action, by emphasizing that avoiding jargon is key to effective communication on climate change and that focus needs to be placed on demonstrating how people can become part of solutions to climate change by changing their habits in everyday life.

36. The first presentation was delivered by Ms. Delphine Blumereau, a representative of CliMates, an independent international students' organization, which conducts research on, and advocacy for, innovative climate solutions. Ms. Blumereau presented COP in MyCity,[13] a project which aims to bridge the gap between the intergovernmental climate change process and local climate action through peer-to-peer education, development of youth leadership, and support for and visibility of youth initiatives around the world. In 2013, 19 cities on five continents took part in the project.

37. Mr. Joshua Robert Wiese, a representative of Global Call for Climate Action, a network comprised of more than 450 NGOs, shared lessons learned from the use of digital channels for raising public awareness and calling for climate action. He stressed the importance of people-focused engagement strategies that respond to the diversity of audiences and foster peer-to-peer communication. As an example, he presented The Tree

[11] See <http://www.unccclearn.org/>.
[12] See <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/>.
[13] See <http://copinmycity.weebly.com/>.

project, which aggregates information and resources for individuals and specific interest groups engaged in public discourse on climate change. He also highlighted the Adopt a Negotiator project, which supports young bloggers in providing real-time updates on negotiations from UNFCCC conferences and sharing their experiences at the international level with their networks at the national and local levels in their home countries. He further highlighted the importance of search engine optimization to ensure that web-based information and campaigns easily reach interested people via the Internet.

38. Ms. Ivete Maibaze, a representative of the Government of Mozambique presented advancements in raising public awareness through a series of activities undertaken in the context of Mozambique's National Environmental Programme under the leadership of President Armando Guebuza. The successful completion of the programme's first phase (2009–2014) resulted in the creation of a multi-stakeholder working group in each province, which included representatives of ministries, academia, civil society, the private sector and the media. The working groups identified local environmental problems and developed solutions together with 30,000 educators across the country. Specific training to involve women in the design and implementation of climate change related projects resulted in the increase of women's participation in national resource management committees and the management of district development funds. The project's first phase also saw the production and dissemination of 150,000 copies of educational materials.

39. The last presentation of the session was delivered by Mr. Max T. Edkins, a representative of Connect4Climate, a global partnership programme dedicated to climate change communicaiion launched by the World Bank, the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Global Environment Facility. Connect4Climate aims to inspire global climate action by promoting behavioural and social change, environmental education and youth empowerment. Mr. Edkins highlighted the partnership programme's work with diverse stakeholder groups, such as the music, advertising, fashion and film industries, other private-sector entities and youth networks. In 2011, an African photo and video contest was organized with over 1,000 participants from all African countries to showcase the region's voices and climate action at COP 17/CMP 7 in Durban, South Africa. Connect4Climate's work with the film industry included training for film makers on incorporating messages on climate change into movie scripts and reducing emissions from film production. The key messages of Connect4Climate's campaigns include that early climate action will avoid high costs in the future and that everyone can contribute to combating climate change.

2. Expert panel

40. The panel was comprised of experts in public awareness raising from Guatemala, Saint Lucia, the United States, BBC Media Action and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development. In line with the focus questions published on the UNFCCC website prior to the 2nd Dialogue, the panellists focused their interventions on: strategies that are effective for changing attitudes and behaviour towards climate-friendly lifestyles; how to communicate scientific findings in a manner that is understandable for all groups of society, applicable to daily life and does not create panic, but emphasizes opportunities; and what is needed to advance from public awareness to climate action.

41. Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne, representing Saint Lucia, highlighted shared ownership and peer-to-peer communication as effective means of broadly engaging stakeholders in awareness-raising campaigns. The Caribbean Youth Environment Network[14] was mentioned as a relevant example. He noted that campaigns need to be relevant to people's daily lives to make them effective. With regard to moving from awareness to action, he

[14] See <http://www.cyen.org/documents/homepage.html>.

presented a number of initiatives supported by the Saint Lucian Government, such as partnerships on rainwater harvesting and the provision of financial incentives for the installation of solar-powered water heaters in houses.

42. Ms. Emily Therese Cloyd, representing the United States, joined the panel discussion virtually. She presented communication-related aspects of the development and dissemination of the United States' latest National Climate Assessment,[15] which demonstrates current and future climate impacts and actions as well as opportunities for the public to engage. The 30-chapter report covers each region of the United States and has been developed with input from various stakeholders, who have been engaged throughout the preparation process. She highlighted the importance of developing communication products that are easily understandable to all audiences; for example, the report's intuitive interactive website that makes main findings easily accessible through graphics and keywords, but also allows for access to in-depth information. With regard to the dissemination of the report's findings, partnerships with publicly known figures as well as the use of newsletters and social media proved to be instrumental.

43. Mr. Marcel Oseida, representing Guatemala, highlighted his Government's focus on raising awareness among groups that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in the country. He emphasized the importance of identifying the most efficient means of communication, given the limited access to mass media channels such as the television or Internet. He further emphasized the importance of recognizing the cultural differences of Guatemala's 20 ethnic groups in the development of effective communication strategies. Building partnerships with different stakeholder groups is important for moving from awareness to action.

44. Ms. Delia Lloyd Boylan, a representative of BBC Media Action, stressed that effective communication strategies can be developed only if the realities, needs and priorities of the target audiences are known and reflected. She presented Climate Asia,[16] a recent project in which 33,500 people in seven Asian countries were interviewed using the communication strategies that had been developed with governments, NGOs and media organizations. She emphasized the importance of selecting appropriate media channels in line with local circumstances. With regard to moving from awareness to action, she said that identifying and addressing barriers to action, such as lack of information and knowledge or social barriers, was key.

45. Mr. Saleemul Huq, a representative of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development mentioned the high level of awareness of climate change and its adverse effects on the part of Bangladesh's political leadership and its over 150 million citizens as well as the country's impressive move from vulnerability to action. He stressed that Bangladesh is among the most proactive countries in the world as regards adaptation, having made significant progress, in particular through the development and implementation of community-based adaptation strategies. As an effective model for raising public awareness, he mentioned a reality television show in Bangladesh, which reaches 30–40 million people weekly, in which two celebrities spend time in local communities to identify local problems and find solutions with community members. He invited interested participants to visit Bangladesh to learn from their experiences on the ground.

3. Discussions

46. A representative of France stated that it has proved to be effective to link communication on mitigation actions to co-benefits, such as monetary savings, for

[15] Available at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov>.

[16] See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/climateasiadataportal>.

incentivizing actions. In response to that representative's question as to whether it is necessary to communicate information on the complex UNFCCC process to the public, the representatives of CliMates and Global Call for Climate Action responded that it is important to translate information on the process to the public as decisions taken at the intergovernmental level effect people's lives significantly. Furthermore, it is important for mobilizing public engagement and building pressure on government representatives.

47. A representative of Ghana shared lessons learned from the health sector, which also deals with the challenge of communicating scientific findings in an understandable way to the public. Effective communication strategies have been developed on the basis of interview responses from community members and the involvement of community leaders and women in the dissemination of information.

48. A representative of the Dominican Republic highlighted the country's Government's One Climate, One Planet, One Decision campaign, conducted as a public–private partnership in 2011 with the aim of fostering behavioural change in production and consumption patterns. The campaign reached 400,000 people through television, public consultations and workshops.

49. A representative of Mexico highlighted the importance of considering the different impacts that climate change has on different genders and age groups, which Mexico addresses by applying a human rights and gender equality based approach to capacity-building for adaptation and mitigation actions. In that context, the representative emphasized the challenge of addressing gender equality in mitigation actions and invited participants to share their relevant experiences.

50. A representative of Bangladesh stressed that increasing awareness of the dramatic effects that climate change has already had on the lives of the most vulnerable communities would have a big impact on behavioural change in developed countries.

51. A representative of Guinea-Bissau highlighted a ministerial initiative on sustainable consumption that led to the introduction of meat-free Mondays in about 3,000 schools involving 3 million students across the country.

52. Other issues highlighted during the discussion include the importance of: partnering with the private sector; linking the communication of scientific findings to indigenous knowledge and developing joint solutions with local communities through participatory processes that foster community ownership; and using insights from psychology when developing communication strategies.

D. Session III: public access to information on climate change

1. Presentations

53. Ms. Ndayishimiye chaired the third working session, on public access to information on climate change.

54. Mr. Albert Altarejos Magalang, representing the Philippines, presented his government's efforts to enhance public access to information on climate change, emphasizing that people's right to information is stipulated in the country's constitution and that public access to information on climate change is an integral part of the Philippine National Framework Strategy on Climate Change[17] and is addressed in a dedicated chapter of the National Climate Change Action Plan.[18] He highlighted the significant role that information and communication technologies play in knowledge management, mapping

[17] Available at <http://www.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/nfscc_sgd.pdf>.
[18] Available at <http://adaptationmarketplace.org/data/library-documents/NCCAP_TechDoc.pdf>.

and modelling of information and forecasting. To ensure broad access to information, the Government has put in place various information platforms, such as an e-library and an online space for exchanging information on community practices. Furthermore, information is disseminated through social media and in collaboration with civil society, the private sector and media organizations. The presenter pointed out the importance of ensuring that information is gender responsive and that technical concepts are communicated in a way that is understandable to the general public. As a key challenge, he mentioned the avoidance of additional costs for the enhanced provision of information. In response to a question from a representative of the European Union (EU) on how that can be achieved, he explained that the Philippine Government is trying to make use of existing communication channels to the extent possible, while increasing the thematic focus on climate change related information.

55. Mr. Jürgen Nimptsch, Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn, highlighted in his presentation the city's efforts to communicate information on climate change and climate policymaking and action. The city undertakes comprehensive reporting on its policies, targets and activities through the voluntary global online reporting platform "carbon*n* Cities Climate Registry".[19] The presenter stressed the importance of bringing together various existing global registries for making information on climate action undertaken by cities easily accessible to interested stakeholders at all levels. As an example of how the city of Bonn has enhanced access to information, he mentioned the installation of rain meters in response to the increased occurrence of flash floods in order to provide citizens with an early warning system. Furthermore, the city conducts regular public events and dialogues on climate change and related policy planning and action. The city also supports an informed citizenship through a climate change programme for schoolchildren, which explains the causes and effects of climate change and encourages children to become agents of change by adopting climate-friendly behaviour and sharing information with their families.

56. Mr. Nigel Topping, a representative of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), presented the organization's work on gathering and disclosing environmental information from over 4,500 organizations in 81 countries, representing 81 per cent of the world's largest companies, by collaborating with their 767 institutional investors, including pension funds, holding about USD 92 trillion worth of investments. The presenter stated that, as climate change is a systemic problem caused by private-sector activities, it is the private sector that needs to provide the solution. Using the large data sets that it has been compiling since 2000, CDP helps investors and investment fund managers to move their capital away from sources of carbon emissions and advises national and local governments on policy formulation in that regard. CDP data are publicly available and built on by many research and academic institutions. CDP is currently working on opportunities to transform its data into resources for the public to use to inform their purchasing and investment decisions.

57. The final presentation was delivered by Mr. Manyewu Mutamba, a representative of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions. He explained how the use of mobile phones has enhanced farmers' access to climate change related information. He noted that access to early warning systems and weather information is key to the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices. The use of mobile phones provides a cost-effective way for farmers' organizations to exchange information, take sound procurement decisions and increase their bargaining power through coordination and access markets at lower transaction costs. The presenter expressed optimism that the challenges involved in the broader use of mobile phones, such as low literacy levels, the emergence of uncoordinated information platforms and monetary costs, will be overcome given the enormous benefits and opportunities that the technology offers.

[19] Available at <http://citiesclimateregistry.org>.

2. Expert panel

58. The panel was comprised of experts in public access to information on climate change from Sweden, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Casino Group and the World Resources Institute (WRI). In line with the focus questions published on the UNFCCC website prior to the 2nd Dialogue, the panellists focused their interventions on: what mechanisms could be used for ensuring public access to information on policies and activities that may have adverse effects on the climate system; how information and communication technologies can facilitate public access to information on climate change; and how access to information on the emission intensity of products can be enhanced to encourage sustainable consumption choices.

59. Mr. Mats Kullberg, representing Sweden, stated that his government's work on ensuring public access to information on climate change related matters is guided by the Aarhus Convention and national regulations. Sweden offers various public databases, websites and resource materials that provide information on the causes and effects of climate change as well as the Government's climate policymaking and implementation. Mr. Kullberg emphasized the importance of applying targeted communication strategies to ensure that the available information is understood and used by the respective audiences.

60. Ms. Anabella Rosemberg, a representative of ITUC stressed that principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development never made the legal translation into the workplace and that most workers do not have access to information on the climate change related decision-making of their employers. It is key to provide such information to workers and to involve them in decision-making processes as workers have insights that can significantly contribute to making effective decisions. She emphasized that the right to access to information goes hand in hand with the right to have the capacity to understand and act on the basis of that information and is therefore closely linked to other elements of Article 6 of the Convention, namely education and training.

61. Mr. Marc Voinnesson, a representative of the Casino Group, presented his company's work on developing an index that shows the environmental footprint of products. Having developed a carbon index for its products in 2008, the company expanded the index in 2011 to include information on water consumption and water pollution for all products in the Casino brand. The index offers one aggregated number for easy comparison between Casino products. Mr. Voinnesson stressed that in order to foster sustainable consumption through the provision of such information, it is necessary to develop one standard that makes all products comparable. In response to a concern raised by the representative of ITUC that, as consumer choices also depend on disposable income, it would be more effective to put in place regulations that prevent carbon-intense products, the expert from the Casino Group said that this would be difficult to implement as it would, for example, imply the end of the meat industry. However, the industry-wide standard proposed by him would provide producers with a justification to invest in lowering the environmental impacts of their products without regulating their production.

62. Mr. Jesse Worker, a representative of WRI joined the discussion virtually to present the Access Initiative,[20] which is a global network of over 200 organizations in 54 countries that promotes access to information, participation and justice in environmental decision-making. Members of the network carry out evidence-based advocacy to encourage collaboration and innovation that advances transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in decision-making processes at all levels. This includes ensuring participation in environmental impact assessments and policy reforms. WRI is currently developing an environmental democracy index, which will serve as a platform and a tool to measure environmental democracy in 75 countries by assessing laws and practices in relation to

[20] See <http://www.earthtrends.wri.org>.

environmental transparency, participation and accountability. Mr. Worker highlighted the Access Initiative's findings that a lack of inventories of activities exists in the area of adaptation. A representative of the EU responded to this by acknowledging the lack of information on adaptation actions and noting that the EU has developed the European Climate Adaptation Platform[11] in an effort to fill the information gap.

3. Discussions

63. Many participants acknowledged that information and communication technologies, such as mobile phones, websites, online tools and platforms, and social media, serve as effective means of providing the public with access to information. Some noted that, at the same time, such technologies serve as important channels for the public to provide information to governments. Furthermore, the importance of making information available in plain language and applicable to the daily lives of the target audiences was emphasized by a number of participants.

64. A representative of the Sudan emphasized that indigenous knowledge needs to be taken into account when the information needs of local communities are assessed and that the provision of information should target the improvement of livelihoods. A representative of France suggested that showcasing potential results of taking action should be used to motivate target audiences. The representative of BBC Media Action recommended the clear identification of effective communication channels before the content for communication is developed. A representative of the Philippines highlighted the importance of ensuring that communication channels are made resilient to disasters or that alternative channels are put in place in order to ensure access to information at all times. A representative of Zimbabwe agreed on the importance of fostering sustainable consumption choices, but questioned at which level of the development of food industry standards information on the emission intensity of products should be introduced.

E. Public participation via social media

65. To enhance and broaden public participation in the Dialogue, the secretariat published on the UNFCCC website an invitation to provide views on the issues under discussion and pose questions to the presenters and panellists via Twitter. For that purpose, the secretariat established and promoted the Twitter hashtag #Art6Dialogue, under which more than 100 tweets from Parties, IGOs, NGOs and the media were received during the 2nd Dialogue. Some tweets suggested that positive, but realistic messages about climate change should be used for raising public awareness. A youth representative confirmed that peer-to-peer learning had proved to be an effective way of raising awareness among young people and expressed her hopes that the proposal on civil-society engagement made during the 2nd Dialogue would translate into strong policies. Another participant gave an example of effective climate change communication in Cameroon. In response to a question received via Twitter, the representative of BBC Media Action confirmed that its research took into account age- and gender-specific needs and led to the collection of gender-disaggregated data. A number of key messages arising from the discussions held at the 2nd Dialogue were shared by participants in the room via Twitter in real time with the global audience.

[11] Available at <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/european-climate-adaptation-platform-climate-adapt>.

F. Closure of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

66. Mr. Yanvoli delivered closing remarks. He thanked all presenters and participants for the rich and thought-provoking discussions and expressed his confidence that the information shared will help to advance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. He emphasized that Article 6 of the Convention plays a critical role in building broad public understanding and support for the development and implementation of a new climate change agreement.

IV. Next steps

67. This report will be submitted to SBI 41 for consideration.

68. Parties and other stakeholders may wish to use the information that it contains when planning, designing and implementing activities related to public participation, public awareness, public access to information and international cooperation on such matters.

Annex

[English only]

Agenda for the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

Opening of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention **Session 1: public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action** Thursday, 5 June 2014, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. – Room Reger	
11–11.15 a.m.	**Opening of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention** **Welcoming and opening remarks** • **Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal**, Minster of State for Environment of Peru and incoming President of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) • **Mr. Amena Yauvoli**, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and Chair of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention **Outline and objectives of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 on the Convention, presented by the co-facilitators** • **Ms. Renilde Ndayishimiye**, UNFCCC national focal point, Burundi • **Mr. Paul Watkinson**, chief negotiator and head of the climate negotiations team, France
Good practices and lessons learned in fostering public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action	
11.15 a.m.–12.15 p.m.	**Presentations** • "Public participation in climate change: perspective from the Global South", **Ms. Priscilla Achakpa**, Women Environmental Programme, Nigeria, and "Key messages from women and gender on public participation", **Ms. Gotelind Alber**, GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, UNFCCC observer constituency of women and gender non-governmental organizations (NGOs) • "Listening and learning: a case study on engaging active participation by grass-roots practitioners at an international conference", **Ms. Tara Shine**, Head of Research and Development, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, UNFCCC observer constituency of research and independent NGOs • "Good practices and lessons learned in fostering public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action: Nicaragua case", **Mr. Dennis Mairena**, Executive Director, Center for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples, UNFCCC observer constituency of indigenous peoples organizations • "Draft guidelines for national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention", **Ms. Adriana Valenzuela**, United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness **Questions and answers**
Value of public participation in climate change policy decision-making and action	
12.15–1 p.m.	**Moderated dialogue between panellists and participants guided by the following questions:** • What are the main challenges involved in developing public participation mechanisms and how can those challenges be overcome? • How can it be ensured that all stakeholder groups are involved in climate change policymaking and action? • What are the best approaches for governments to take to mobilize public support for climate action? What are the best strategies for the public to encourage governments to take ambitious climate action?

	Panellists • **Mr. Ernesto Ráez Luna**, ministerial advisor and leader of COP 20/CMP 10 stakeholder engagement team, Ministry of the Environment, Peru • **Mr. Pierre Henri Guignard**, Secretary-General COP 21/CMP 11, France • **Mr. Sébastien Duyck**, Researcher, University of Lapland, UNFCCC observer constituency of environmental NGOs • **Mr. Achim Halpaap**, Senior Manager, Environment and Green Development, United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Session II: raising public awareness on climate change and mobilizing climate action Sunday, 8 June 2014, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. – Room Reger	
11–11.05 a.m.	**Outline and objectives of session II, presented by co-facilitator Mr. Watkinson**
Good practices and lessons learned in raising public awareness on climate change	
11.05 a.m.–12 p.m.	**Presentations** • "COP in MyCity", **Ms. Delphine Blumereau**, Officer of the COP in MyCity project for Asia and the Middle East, CliMates, UNFCCC observer constituency of youth NGOs • "Global Call for Climate Action's global experience from raising public awareness on climate change", **Mr. Joshua Wiese**, Director of the Adopt a Negotiator programme, Global Call for Climate Action, UNFCCC observer constituency of environmental NGOs • "What strategies are effective to change attitudes and behaviours towards climate-friendly lifestyles?", **Ms. Ivete Maibaze**, Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique • "Connect4Climate: reaching new audiences", **Mr. Max T. Edkins**, Connect4Climate, World Bank **Questions and answers**
Increasing public awareness as a means of mobilizing climate action	
12–1 p.m.	**Moderated dialogue between panellists and participants guided by the following questions:** • What strategies are effective to change attitudes and behaviour towards climate-friendly lifestyles? • How can scientific findings be communicated in a manner that is understandable for all groups of society, applicable to daily life and does not create panic, but emphasizes opportunities? • What is needed to advance from public awareness to climate action? **Panellists** • **Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne**, Chief Sustainable Development and Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, Saint Lucia • **Ms. Emily Therese Cloyd**, Public Participation and Engagement Coordinator, Global Change Research Program, United States • **Ms. Delia Lloyd**, Senior Policy Manager, BBC Media Action • **Mr. Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development • **Mr. Marcel Oseida**, Climate Change Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala

Session III: public access to information on climate change Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. – Room Reger	
11–11.05 a.m.	**Outline and objectives of session III, presented by co-facilitator Ms. Ndayishimiye**
Good practices and lessons learned in relation to enabling public access to information on climate change	
11.05 a.m.–12 p.m.	**Presentations** • "Good practices and lessons learned from enhancing public access to information on climate change in Philippines", **Mr. Albert Altarejos Magalang**, Head of the Climate Change Office, the Philippines • "Public access to information – from local to global: good practices and lessons learned from the perspectives of local governments", **Mr. Jürgen Nimptsch**, Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn, UNFCCC observer constituency of local governments and municipal authorities • "Ensuring transparency and enabling access to environmental information – lessons from the Carbon Disclosure Project", **Mr. Nigel Topping**, Carbon Disclosure Project Executive Director, UNFCCC observer constituency of business and industry NGOs • "Harnessing the potential of the mobile phone for connecting farmers with climate information", **Mr. Manyewu Mutamba**, Analyst for Economics and Policy, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions, UNFCCC observer constituency of farmers **Questions and answers**
Public access to information as a means to enhance public input to informed decision-making and effectiveness of climate action	
12–12.50 p.m.	**Moderated dialogue between panellists and participants guided by the following questions:** • What mechanisms could be used for ensuring public access to information on policies and activities that may have adverse effects on the climate system? • How can information and communication technologies facilitate public access to information on climate change? • How can access to information on the emission intensity of products be enhanced to encourage sustainable consumption choices? **Panellists** • **Mr. Mats Kullberg**, national focal point for Article 6 of the Convention, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden • **Ms. Anabella Rosemberg**, Policy Officer on Environment and Occupational Health and Safety, International Trade Union Confederation, UNFCCC observer constituency of trade union NGOs • **Mr. Marc Voinnesson**, Quality Manager, Casino Group • **Mr. Jesse Worker**, Associate, the Access Initiative, World Resources Institute
Closure of the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention	
12.50–1 p.m.	**Closing remarks delivered by Mr. Yauvoli**